

## LITERARY MISCELLANY.

For the National Era.

## LEONARD WRAY.

A ROMANCE OF MODERN HISTORY.  
By the author of "The Chronicles of the Bastille,"  
"The Baboon," "The Yule Log," "Philip of  
Lorraine," &c.

CHAP. X.—Continued.

"I believe," resumed the other, "it gives me power to foreclose the mortgage, at any time, if I choose."  
"Conditionally, on your giving to the other party, or to his attorneys, &c., fifteen days' notice," suggested the lawyer, stretching out his long fingers, and closing them again with a nervous twitch.  
"Exactly," said Aveling. "Now, tell me—suppose the party should be in France at this time, and I were to give him due notice, would that be valid according to French law?"  
"Perfectly so," answered the attorney. "Unless he have this large amount with him, or can command it on his credit, it would be impossible for him to prevent the foreclosure."  
"I have thought of that, and am, I think, safe, so far. He is an over-scrupulous fellow, who professes to have some conscientious notions about the sinfulness of holding slaves, and who would have set the whole lot free, if his father had not, like a true Southerner, mortgaged the property over and over again. The result of this sort of scrupulousness is, that he is poor, and obliged to depend upon the returns of a small estate in a business in New York, whilst he lets his slaves work for the benefit of his overseers and the creditors of the estate."

The legal spider smiled contemptuously at this disclosure of pecuniary interest to conscience, and expressed his inability to comprehend such egotistical folly.

"And this property," he remarked, sharpening his hard nails with a pen knife, "you wish me to purchase?"

"There is purchasing, and purchasing," replied the other. "You know what I desire; and the simple question is, whether you will aid me?"

"For a consideration of—well, never mind! The terms are sufficiently liberal," resumed Gaius, and I am not disinclined to assist you. I shall acquire all your rights, and so forth, and am to proceed against this Monsieur Wray as you shall direct."

"No mercy!" gasped Mark.

"I clearly understand," said the attorney; "I fully enter into your views. You say Monsieur Wray is in Paris?"

"I met him, only a few evenings since, at a soiree," replied Mark; "I followed the hackney carriage that took them home."

"Them?" ejaculated Pelligrini.

"Yes; she was with him," resumed the other.

"She! You forget, my good friend?"

"True; you do not know. I mean that Leonard and his sister were there, and that I have ascertained where they are residing. They are at an hotel, not far from here."

"They must be watched," suggested the attorney.

"Do not lose sight of them an hour," remarked Aveling.

"I observe, in the deed, the name of a slave, who bears the same name as the young lady you mentioned just now," said Pelligrini.

"Is she—the sister, I presume, of the young man who ever had the chance of securing?"

"But did you not say she is sister to Monsieur Wray?" asked the attorney, opening his hawk's eyes in some surprise.

Mark Aveling laughed contemptuously, but it was in bitterness of spirit.

"She's what we call a white negro in our country," he said. "There are thousands such. She is Leonard's sister, it is true, but only on the father's side. The mother of the girl was as near her color as two peas. They say she was one of Jefferson's favorites. You could not have distinguished her from a white, only for her hair. Old Wray bought her on speculation, but took such a fancy to her, that he and his wife quarreled on it, and parted. She caught the fever and died, in Charleston, some ten months after. Milly Wray kept the old man's house during this time, and this is how he came to bring up the girl he had by Milly, with his son Leonard. When she was seven years old, he sent her to school in the city of New York, where none knew but that she was Miss Mildred Wray, and Leonard's own born sister. Now and then she used to come home for a holiday, and then there would be great doings, showing her off. At last she grew up to be a young woman, and the old man became ashamed to have her home any more, because of her origin. The secret was carefully kept from her brother, who nearly went mad when he last discovered it. His father told him he intended to leave her free, but she young headstrong fool would not hear of his beautiful sister being a slave, and would not sanction any act that established the fact. This sentiment, however, did not suit the creditors; and when the old man died, she was included in the chattels and effects personal, as a matter of course. My father was the largest creditor, and when he died I inherited the whole of his property; for you must know I am an only son."

The attorney began to gather a clue to the motives which had induced Aveling to seek his co-operation. He had an instinctive apprehension that malice and cunning were coming into play, and would find employment for him. He stirred the fire, and gathered up his long limbs to listen more attentively.

"As I know the whole history of Mildred Wray," resumed Aveling, "I was not inclined to be talked of the way I had long entertained of gaining possession of that pretty piece of property; so I went one day to Leonard, and made a bid for her, offering to defray the sum from the amount he owed me. He flew into a towering passion, and bade me leave the house. However, he calmed down presently; and when I had talked the matter over with him, he grew more reasonable, and said he would think over it. I allowed some time to pass, and he did not take any notice, I went to him again. He told me he had made up his mind to decline buying himself to my proposition. I threatened to sell him up, but he did not care for that, he said, and so we parted. On my way home, I bethought myself that if I attempted to carry out my threat, the other creditors would come in, and I might miss my object forever. So I went to work and bought them up, one after the other."

"Capital tactics!" exclaimed the attorney, quite enraptured with the details of so consummate a villainy.

"I thus became sole mortgagee of the property," continued Aveling, "and determined now to secure the girl. I went again to Leonard, and told him what matters stood, but it was all of no use. He had taken the girl should not know anything of what was going on, and kept the place where she was residing so close a secret, that it defied any attempt of mine to discover it. At last she fell sick, and the physicians ordered her to the South for change. Her native air was recommended, and to save her life, she was brought back about—about—two years ago."

"The Mark's countenance changed, and he paused a moment.

"I am quite interested," observed Pelligrini, stretching out his fingers again, in that old uncomfortable way of his.

"She remained there until her health was quite restored," resumed Aveling, speaking as though his throat was dry, "during which

time I had frequent opportunities of seeing her. Unfortunately, I did not please her fastidious taste, and one day I discovered that I had a rival. But I—I will not detain you with—"with—"he stopped.

"Oh, pray do not mention that," said the attorney. "I do not wish to lose a word."

"Briefly," said Aveling, "I determined to secure possession of her. I concocted a plan for running her off, when I was informed one morning that her brother, and she had left for the North. I went after them, without delay; but, having traced them to Washington, there lost all clue to them. To have sold the property up, would not have accomplished my object; so I left the country, to visit foreign lands, consigning the care of my affairs to my agent, who is now in Paris concerning them."

"I see, I see it all now," remarked Gaius. "What you now want is a hard sham, as 'Is it a bargain between us, Monsieur Pelligrini?' asked Aveling.

"You shall be aided to the extent of my ability," answered the other. "It is agreed."

They were still engaged discussing their plan of operations, when the lean man, Martin, returned. He gave the door a hard slam, as he came in, and made the ancient black spit in the corner draw further back into his hiding-place, and Gaius, the attorney, took up. Martin retired into his closet, without noticing his master and his client; and presently the two went out together, leaving him with his head in his desk.

## WASHINGTON, D. C.

SATURDAY, JULY 1, 1854.

## "THE DUTY OF TO-DAY."

In reply to a remark in the *Era*, that to vote for the re-election of a member to Congress, simply because he had recorded his name against the Nebraska Bill, would be going a little too far, the *Tribune* says:

"Now the *Tribune*, certainly, has never proposed, at all events, never intended—that the naked fact that a member voted against the Nebraska bill on its final passage, should be taken as conclusive proof of his soundness on the great question. On the contrary, it has, with entire plainness of speech, exposed and rebuked the dodges of that slippery Pennsylvania Trout, and other loose fish, who voted against Douglass's bill on its final passage, but helped it along when it most needed their help during the progress of the struggle. Here is another of the sort—Mr. John Wentworth, from Chicago, Illinois—a noisy Wilcox Provisoist in other days, who is reported by the *Aurora Beacon*, (Ill.) to have written home to one of his constituents as follows:

"WASHINGTON, March, 1854.

"Mr. D. Wheeler, Blackberry, Ill."

"My DEAR SIR: We expect that the Nebraska bill will come before the House in a few days, when we hope to make short work of it. I HAVE TOO MANY FAVORS TO ASK OF OUR SENATORS TO QUARREL WITH THEM.

"Yours truly, JNO. WENTWORTH."

"Here is the key to many a shuffling, dodging course on the inquiry—Members having 'favors to ask' of the disunion of public opinion on the one hand, and constituents on the other, and to hoodwink on the other. We want no man re-elected who occupies this position, no matter how he may have voted on any question connected with the Nebraska bill."

We do not know anything about this letter, ascribed to Mr. Wentworth. It is best that he should see it, so that he may furnish his friends with the necessary explanation as to what he meant by making "short work of it," and "not quarrel" with Senators. It is but justice to Mr. Wentworth to say that there is nothing in his record, throughout the struggle on the Nebraska Bill, which indicates a disposition to play false to his constituents.

AN ACT FOR THE DEFENCE OF LIBERTY IN THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT.

A great clamor has been raised about a nullification act, said to have been passed within a few days by the Legislature of Connecticut. We find this act, with a report of the proceedings thereon, in the *New Haven Journal and Courier*. It is entitled "An act for the Defence of Liberty in this State, and is as follows:

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives, in General Assembly convened:

Sec. 1. Every person who shall falsely and maliciously declare, represent, or pretend, that any free person is a slave, or owns or serves or labor to any person or persons, with intent to procure, or to aid, or assist in procuring, the forcible removal of said free person from this State as a slave, shall pay a fine of five thousand dollars, and be imprisoned five years in the Connecticut State prison.

Sec. 2. In all cases arising under this act, the truth of any declaration, pretence, or representation, that any person being or having been in this State, is or was a slave, or owns or did own or serve or labor to any other person or persons, shall not be deemed proved except by the testimony of two credible witnesses, or by testifying to facts directly tending to establish the truth of such declaration, pretence, or representation, or by legal evidence equivalent thereto.

Sec. 3. Every person who shall wrongfully and maliciously seize, or procure to be seized, any free person entitled to freedom, with intent to have such free person held in slavery, shall pay a fine of five thousand dollars, and be imprisoned five years in the Connecticut State prison.

Sec. 4. Upon the trial of any prosecution arising under this act, no deposition shall be admitted as evidence of the truth of any statement in such deposition contained.

Sec. 5. If, upon the trial of any prosecution arising under this act, any witness shall, in behalf of the party accused, and with intent to aid him in his defence, falsely and wilfully, in testifying, represent or pretend that any person is or was a slave, or does or ever did own or serve or labor to any person or persons, such witness shall pay a fine of five thousand dollars, and be imprisoned five years in the Connecticut State prison.

Sec. 6. Whenever complaint or information shall be made against any person for any offence described in any section of this act, and upon such complaint or information, a warrant shall have been duly issued for the arrest of such person, any person who shall hinder or obstruct a sheriff, deputy sheriff, or constable, in the service of such warrant, or shall aid such accused person in escaping from the pursuit of such officer, shall be imprisoned one year in the Connecticut State prison.

Sec. 7. No declaration, pretence, or representation, that any person is or was an apprentice for a term of years, or owns or did own or serve merely as such an apprentice for such fixed term, shall be deemed prohibited by this act; and no such declaration, pretence, or representation, that any person is or was such an apprentice for such fixed term, or owns or did own or serve merely as such an apprentice for such fixed term, shall render any person liable to any penalty under this act.

While the bill was under discussion in the House, June 28th, Mr. Hyde remarked that it would nullify the provisions of the Constitution

and the laws of the land. Mr. Brandegee denied this; if he thought the bill in conflict with the United States Constitution, he would vote against it. Mr. Oakley merely contended for the defence of liberty and the protection of freemen. South Carolina can take a Northern freeman and imprison him; and shall we not protect the rights of men in this State? Mr. Cornwell asked, will not the bill conflict with that part of the Fugitive Slave Law, relating to evidence? Mr. Brandegee answered, that the Commissioner is merely a ministerial officer—he has nothing to do with judicial evidence—this law is designed to bring the matter where evidence can be presented.

Motions to amend, and to indefinitely postpone, were severally rejected, and the bill then passed—yeas 112, nays 85.

## THE PEOPLE'S PARTY IN MASSACHUSETTS.

We rejoice to see that the first step towards the organization of a People's Party has been taken in Massachusetts. A correspondent, writing from Boston, says:

"You will see that the right movement for the new Freedom Party in this State has commenced at Old Concord, a most fitting place, for here commenced the old fight for freedom, and here begins the new one. The public mind is all ripe for the formation of the new party."

Representatives of all parties attended the meeting at Concord, which was held on the 22d. John S. Keyes, Sheriff of Middlesex county, presided. Nathan Brooks, Dr. Reynolds, and S. G. Wheeler, Whigs; W. E. Robinson and Ralph Waldo Emerson, Independent Democrats; C. C. Hazewell and Simon Brown, Democrats, were present, and took an active part. The following gentlemen were appointed a committee, to address the friends of freedom throughout the State: Samuel Hoar, C. C. Hazewell, Dr. Shattuck, Addison G. Fay, Simon Brown, and R. W. Emerson. In its circular, the committee says:

"The inhabitants of Concord, influenced by the feelings which seem to pervade the Commonwealth, anxiously inquire what the Free States will do, or should do, in relation to the Nebraska law. They think that no section of this State should adopt any practical measure which may conflict with the views and purposes of other parts of the Commonwealth. They desire to confer with some of their fellow-citizens in different parts of the State, on the subject of calling a State Convention, to consider and determine what measures the exigency of the time demand of Massachusetts."

A call for a State Convention is now in circulation. The People are moving, and we hope the old political leaders and their organizations will have the good sense rather to aid than obstruct the popular movement.

## EDUCATION IN GEORGIA.

Some of our exchanges in Georgia are laboring to arouse public sentiment in that State to the deplorable lack of education among the people. A writer in the *Federal Union* says:

"A generous patriotism is startled by the fact as it stood in 1840. Upwards of thirty thousand free, white, grown-up citizens in Georgia, unable to read or write a word of their mother tongue! This number equals the entire adult population of this State, as it stood seven years after the close of the Revolution. Ten years later, by 1850, comes, and the number in that short time has swollen to forty-one thousand! Many have looked with anxiety at these figures, (and surely not without the best of reasons,) who have not noticed the most distressing feature of the case. We refer to the rapidity with which the number of entirely uneducated freemen in Georgia increases. It increases more rapidly than the entire population does. By reference to the last census, will it be seen that between 1840 and 1850, the rate of increase of the white population was a little under 28 per cent. During the same time, the rate of increase of the number of adult citizens in the State, unable to read and write, was over 24 1/2 per cent."

The whole white population in Georgia in 1850, above twenty years, was two hundred thousand, and in that year there were forty-one thousand, or rather more than one-fifth, over twenty, unable to read or write! And yet scarcely a day passes in which we do not hear in Southern speeches or see in Southern papers, extravagant laudations of the system which produces such results as this.

THE GREENVILLE (S. C.) Patriot nominates Douglas for the Presidency, on the ground that he has "settled the Slavery question on the great principles of the American Revolution!" and it has no doubt that the American People will elect him by acclamation. Pettit should run as Vice President on the same ticket, for having settled the meaning of those great principles.

JUDGE SMITH.—Some of the *Caleb Cushing* papers are denouncing Judge Smith, of Wisconsin, as an Abolitionist. The Milwaukee Democrat says:

"The 'Abolition functionary' referred to is an Old Line Democrat, who was a Democrat when the renegade from all parties (Cushing) was a Whig, an Abolitionist, and a Tyler man."

THE EXON (Glasgow) Independent Press has a short way of disposing of the Cuban Question—"The American Government," it says, "should go to Spain with the word in one hand, and the purse in the other." Take this or that—if you won't sell you shall fight. The same paper, styling itself Democratic, and regarding itself as an organ of the great National Democratic party, says of Mr. Toombs, he "is to-day the ablest, boldest, and most fearless advocate of Slavery, and the social system of the South, that there is in America."

AN ANTI-NEBRASKA STATE CONVENTION in New York, it is said, will be held in Albany, July 13th. The formal call is not yet issued.

FOREIGN TOURISTS AND OUR PRESIDENTS.—Nothing is more common than for foreigners, after visiting our Presidents, to fall into raptures about the beautiful simplicity and freedom with which they have been received. They go to the White House, expecting to see an array of supernumerary guards, gentlemen in black and powdered, solemnly waiting, ceremonials, and trappings and stately introductions, after the fashions of the mummies of the Old World. Their surprise knows no bounds when they find themselves suddenly, and with the slightest possible ceremony, introduced to the President, who shakes them by the hand, discourses graciously of the weather, asks them how long since they left their own country, and perhaps by a casual remark shows that he has read considerably about it. Overcome by his emotions, profoundly impressed by such simplicity and civility in the highest station, they

## SPEECH OF HON. CHARLES SUMNER.

ON THE BOSTON PETITION FOR THE REPEAL OF THE FUGITIVE SLAVE LAW.

In Senate of the United States, June 26, 1854.

MR. SUMNER. Mr. President, I begin by answering the interrogatory propounded by the Senator from Tennessee, [Mr. JONES]. He asks, "Can any one suppose that, if the Fugitive Slave Act be repealed, this Union can exist?" To which I reply at once, that if the Union be in any way dependent on an act—I cannot call it a law, so revolting in every regard as that to which he refers, then it ought not to exist. To much else that has fallen from that Senator I do not desire to reply. He has discussed at length matters already handled again and again in the present session, and in the session of 1853, and in the session of 1852, and in the session of 1851, and in the session of 1850, and in the session of 1849, and in the session of 1848, and in the session of 1847, and in the session of 1846, and in the session of 1845, and in the session of 1844, and in the session of 1843, and in the session of 1842, and in the session of 1841, and in the session of 1840, and in the session of 1839, and in the session of 1838, and in the session of 1837, and in the session of 1836, and in the session of 1835, and in the session of 1834, and in the session of 1833, and in the session of 1832, and in the session of 1831, and in the session of 1830, and in the session of 1829, and in the session of 1828, and in the session of 1827, and in the session of 1826, and in the session of 1825, and in the session of 1824, and in the session of 1823, and in the session of 1822, and in the 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